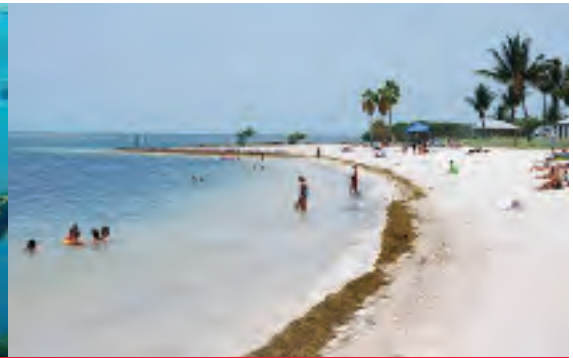




NATIONAL MARINE
SANCTUARIES



WHAT ARE NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARIES?

- Places of national significance in our oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes
- Areas managed by NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries under the the National Marine Sanctuaries Act
- Chosen because of their scenic beauty, cultural heritage, or ecological significance for Americans

WHAT DO SANCTUARIES DO?

- Provide public access that allows us to keep enjoying healthy oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes
- Support sustainable fishing and other ocean jobs in coastal communities
- Save underwater wildlife and habitats for the next generation
- Preserve shipwrecks and cultural artifacts that keep American history alive

WHY ARE SANCTUARIES SPECIAL?

- They Work: For 40 years, sanctuaries have proven conservation and development go hand-in-hand
- Community Driven: Citizens and states have a strong say in what happens on their coasts
- Multiple Uses: Sanctuaries are places for learning, recreation, and commerce for generations to come

BY THE NUMBERS

14 sites in the system

> 150,000
square miles protected
by the sanctuary
system

> 700
citizens involved in the
14 sanctuary advisory
councils

106,000
number of jobs near
the Florida Keys
National Marine
Sanctuary that rely on
marine tourism

**126
MILLION**
dollars generated
annually by Stellwagen
Bank whale watching



Photo: NOAA



Photo: NOAA



Photo: NOAA



Photo: NOAA



Scale varies in this perspective. Adapted from National Geographic Maps.



The National Marine Sanctuary Foundation connects people to the underwater places that define the American ocean.



The National Marine Sanctuary Foundation is a private, nonprofit organization that connects people to the most valued places in our American ocean: national marine sanctuaries. Sanctuaries – areas in our ocean and Great Lakes set aside for their cultural and ecological significance – protect the very best of the American ocean for the next generation.

National marine sanctuaries are hubs for jobs, learning, and outdoor fun. Through public and private partnerships, NMSF supports:

ADVOCACY Sanctuaries play a critical role in ocean conservation. NMSF highlights the importance of a healthy ocean to coastal economies, and the need to fund critical ocean programs, through its outreach on Capitol Hill. These efforts culminate each year with Capitol Hill Ocean Week®, the premier ocean conference held annually in our nation's capital.



Photo: NOAA

AWARENESS We know every adult and child can be a good steward of our underwater national treasures. That's why we push people to better understand the ocean using the special places already recognized as worthy of protection: national marine sanctuaries. We send students on voyages to discover uncharted shipwrecks, build interactive exhibits with real-time weather stations, and foster sustainable use that helps our economy boom. Our annual Ernest F. Hollings Ocean Awareness Grant funds programs that lead the way for the next generation of sea stewards.



Photo: NOAA

EDUCATION Recognizing the importance of teaching people about our ocean, NMSF has spearheaded visitor center campaigns to support multiple sanctuary communities. Most recently, NMSF funded the visitor-controlled ROV that will allow visitors to explore Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary without getting their feet wet in the Exploration Center opening this summer in Santa Cruz, Calif.

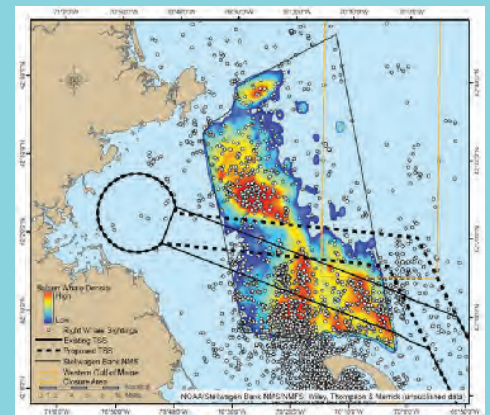


Photo: NOAA

COMMUNITY We know community involvement is key, and we are proud national marine sanctuary management is one of the most public processes in our democracy. It's individuals in the community, not bureaucrats, that shape sanctuaries into places to learn about the environment, celebrate culture, and relax on vacation – all as a way to better protect our American ocean.

A SANCTUARY STORY

NMSF supports win-win solutions for business and conservation, including scienceandecosystem-basedmanagement approaches.



Thanks to community volunteer research, StellwagenBankNationalMarineSanctuary found a way to ensure Boston could keep importing energy without wiping out the last remaining northern right whales. Information on where whales live (red areas) was used to adjust shipping lanes near Boston.

The solid line is the old shipping lane and the dashed line is the new one. This change decreased whale ship strikes by 81 percent.

GET INVOLVED
www.NMSFocean.org/follow